

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 07134 180923Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7278

UNCLAS ATHENS 7134

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS BTRA, GR
SUBJECT: VISITORS: PROPOSED TRAVEL OF GEORGE AGNOST

REF: STATE 200913

1. THE EMBASSY WILL BE PLEASED TO ASSIST IN MAKING APPOINTMENTS FOR MR. AGNOST AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL. HE SHOULD BE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS NO PRECISE COUNTERPART IN GREECE TO THE OFFICE OF CITY ATTORNEY. THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER POSSIBILITIES, NONETHELESS, AND WE WILL APPRECIATE RECEIVING MR. AGNOST'S GUIDANCE BEFORE TRYING TO ARRANGE ANY APPOINTMENTS, RECOGNIZING THAT THIS IS VACATION TIME FOR MOST GREEK OFFICIALS.

2. FOR EXAMPLE, WE COULD REQUEST APPOINTMENTS WITH THE LEGAL ADVISERS OF THE CITY COUNCILS OF ATHENS AND RHODES. THESE OFFICERS PROVIDE LEGAL ADVICE, ON AN ADVISORY NON-BINDING BASIS, TO THEIR RESPECTIVE CITY COUNCILS ON ANY MATTER BEFORE THE COUNCIL. THEY HAVE NO POLITICAL INFLUENCE AND WE GATHER THE AUTHORITY OF A GREEK CITY LEGAL ADVISER IS MORE LIMITED THAN THAT OF A US CITY ATTORNEY. THEY DO ENGAGE IN LITIGATION ON HOWEVER, BEHALF OF THEIR RESPECTIVE CITY GOVERNMENTS.

3. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO SEEK APPOINTMENTS WITH MEMBERS OF THE ATHENS AND RHODES CITY COUNCILS
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(WHO ARE ELECTED OFFICERS --
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 15, 1978). OTHER POSSIBILITIES INCLUDE APPOINTMENTS WITH PUBLIC PROSECUTORS HERE AND IN THODES, WITH AN OFFICIAL IN THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, OR WITH OFFICERS OF THE UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES AND COMMUNITIES.

4. PLEASE ADVISE WHICH OF THE ABOVE SUGGESTIONS MR. AGNOST PREFERS. IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL TO US TO HAVE SOME INFORMATION ON MR. AGNOST'S INTERESTS, LEGAL SPECIALTIES AND DUTIES AS CITY ATTORNEY. ALSO, WHAT ARE THE DATES OF HIS STAY IN RHODES?

5. MR. AGNOST SHOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH GEORGE BARBIS, POLITICAL COUNSELOR, TELEPHONE 718-401, EXT. 281, AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN ATHENS.
MCCLOSKEY

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